



Terry E. Branstad
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Kim Reynolds
LT. GOVERNOR

Dear Working Group Member:

In November 2013, we announced the Home Base Iowa initiative to recruit veterans to Iowa and match them with available jobs. As our military begins the largest drawdown of forces since the Cold War, many veterans will be seeking new opportunities throughout the country. We believe Iowa has much to offer these veterans – rewarding career opportunities, a home to call their own, and safe neighborhoods. In short, we can offer them what we have termed “the Iowa Dream.”

We believe we can make Iowa the top destination for veterans to continue their education. To that end, we are convening stakeholders to report to us by July 1, 2014 regarding the following three charges:

- 1) Develop a more consistent approach among Iowa’s three state universities and 15 community colleges for awarding undergraduate credits to a student who also is a veteran for courses that are part of the student’s military training or experience. Such credit shall be awarded toward the student’s major, minor, pre-requisite, or elective coursework requirements. Encourage Iowa’s private colleges and universities to adopt the same approach.
- 2) Develop strategies for the state universities, community colleges and participating private colleges and universities to recruit veterans and promote educational benefits provided to veterans at each institution. Study best practices for recruiting veterans to attract and retain a better educated workforce. Examine effectiveness of campus veteran support services. Consider opportunities to coordinate this campaign across higher education institutions, the State of Iowa, and private employers.
- 3) Develop a plan to provide consistent data tracking for an annual report to the Governor’s Office and Legislature. At minimum the report should include the following: the number of veterans enrolled at state universities and community colleges, including new veterans; the number awarded credit for military training, service or experience; and average military credit earned. Encourage private colleges and universities to participate.

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this important process. We look forward to your report and to assisting in its implementation in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Terry E. Branstad
Governor of Iowa

Kim Reynolds
Lieutenant Governor of Iowa